

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR, 1939.



Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I present herewith a brief report for the year 1939.

Public Health Staff.

G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

M.O.H. (part-time)

I. J. Leach, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.I.A.S.

Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor.

Alan S. Chubb, A.I.A.S.

Assistant Sanitary
Inspector and Shop
Inspector.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area 3292 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of (a) resident population mid-1939 7810. (b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates 8165.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to rate books 2665.

Rateable Value

£74492

Sum represented by a penny rate.

£ 292.2/-

	Total	M.	F.		
Live (Legitimate	89	54	35	} Birth rate per 1000	11.9
Births (Illegitimate	4	2	2		

Stillbirths 1 - 1 Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births = 10.7

Deaths 154 64 90 Death rate per 1000 12.38

Comparability factor 0.63. Average age at death = 71.5 years.

Deaths from puerperal causes:

No. 29 Puerperal sepsis

Deaths

Nil

No. 30 Other puerperal causes

Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age - Total 1.

Death rate per 1000 live births (ligitimate) = 10.7

Deaths from cancer (all ages)

15

" " measles " " 0

" " whooping cough " " 0

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 0

General Provision of Health Services.

A considerable epidemic of influenza in the early part of the year, and the outbreak of war in the autumn, are perhaps the two outstanding features affecting the health services of the district during the year. Preparations had been made for the billeting of 1600 unaccompanied school children, but on the arrival of the first train we found that we had to cater for 800 mothers and young children, who, arriving late at night, in the

foulest of weather, and during the blackout, were fed and billeted before eleven p.m. Fortunately, the following and succeeding days turned out very fine, and the re-arrangement of billets and the sorting out of misfits were admirably arranged by the staff of voluntary workers, under the efficient direction of Mr. Chubb, who was temporarily seconded as billeting officer. One large family was ultimately settled permanently in an empty cottage.

Amongst the evacuees we discovered upwards of fifty expectant mothers, and the County Medical Officer of Health promptly gave permission for the opening and equipping of a Maternity Unit to serve this urban, and the surrounding rural districts. A large house was placed at our disposal, local residents subscribed generously in money and in kind, towards the equipment of this Unit, which was organised by the local detachment of the Red Cross, under the direction of the Hon. Mrs. Shore, with Dr. Visger as Medical Officer in charge. It says much for their zeal and energy that the hospital was ready for the reception of patients within a fortnight. Infant Welfare Clinics were arranged under Dr. Gibbs, and Dr. Laidlaw undertook the maternity work. The opening of the Unit relieved what threatened to be a pressing problem at that time, and a deep debt of gratitude is due to all those mentioned, and also to the District Nurses and many others, who worked incessantly for, or opened their homes to, these unfortunate evacuees.

But in spite of all efforts to retain them, it was found that the homing instinct was too powerful, and most of the evacuees returned to London. A number of unaccompanied school children were drafted into the town later, and these settled down wonderfully well. The Maternity Unit remained in commission for use in the later emergency - but that comes into an account of the current year's experiences.

There have been no changes in the hospital, nursing or ambulance services, but two first Aid Posts with nursing auxiliaries, bearer parties and ambulance units have been organised and commanded by Dr. Renton.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The Water Supply has been kept under constant and careful supervision, and chlorination has been resorted to, owing to the fear of contamination from the presence of new buildings in the catchment areas, outside the urban district, which are inadequately serviced by questionable cess-pits.

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) By Local Authority with or without State assistance | Nil. |
| (11) By other bodies or persons | |
| (a) With State Assistance | Nil. |
| (b) Without State Assistance | 49 |

1. Housing Inspections:-

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 36 |
|--|----|

	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	35
2.	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	8
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	8
	(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.	8
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	28
2. <u>Housing Action.</u>			
	(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of <u>informal</u> action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	26
	(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:</u>			
	(a)	Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	40
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a)	By owners	40
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a)	By owners	30
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11,13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) (2) (3) and (4).		Nil
	(d)	<u>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
	(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1

- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit

Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	6
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	22
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	8

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Producers on the Register	31
Distributors " "	
(a) Distributors only	10
(b) Distributor producers	18
Licenses to Graded Milk Distributors	3
Accredited 2	
T.T. 1	

Infectious Diseases.

The influenza epidemic of the spring showed signs of recommencing towards the end of the year, and spread over into the spring of 1940. The whooping cough which we experienced was not a severe type, and the scarlet fever was confined to three sporadic cases. The single case of para-typhoid fever was probably due to infection contracted in Bristol, and no other cases occurred. Pneumonia accounted for five deaths.

In spite of advertisement and persuasion at the Infant Welfare Clinic, the number of young children, including evacuees, who were brought forward for immunisation against diphtheria was disappointingly small. A considerable number of children were done under private arrangements, and there was a good response amongst school children, who were immunised by the School Medical Service.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	2	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paraty- phoid)	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	0
Pneumonia	20	0	5
Whooping Cough	15	0	0
Measles	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and up- wards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	0

Your obedient Servant,

G. Macleod

20th November, 1940.

Herewith are extracts from your Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1939:

Rivers and Streams. The portions for which the Clevedon Council are responsible have been attended to at the appointed times, but I am of the opinion that the work carried out by the Catchment Board is not so satisfactory as that done under the former arrangement, by individual frontagers.

House Refuse Collection. The new covered vehicle purchased during the year has proved highly satisfactory. Arrangements have been made for an extension of the present tipping area. The black-out regulations have added to the difficulty of dealing with combustible refuse at the tip. There is still amongst this refuse large quantities of dirty paper and other refuse which could be burned in household boilers or grates.

Street Refuse Collection. A number of covered bins have been placed in various parts of the town for the collection of street refuse.

Salvage. Waste paper, rags, bones, old iron and other metals are being collected. Tins and bottles present a difficulty as there is no receiving depot for these in the district.

Schools. New sanitary conveniences have been constructed in one school, those in another reconstructed, and reconstruction in a third is still under consideration.

Licensing Sites. These have been inspected regularly, and additional sanitary conveniences arranged for in three cases.

Rats. The usual ratting week was extended this year to two weeks, and over three hundred haunts and properties were dealt with. Many owners of property have had notices served upon them to deal with this rat problem.

Fire Escapes. Hotels and boarding houses which receive holiday children have been inspected with reference to the provision of fire escapes.

Water Supply. Samples of water from five wells in a rural part of the district were found to be contaminated, and were condemned for domestic use by the Medical Officer of Health. Arrangements have been made whereby owners can obtain a temporary supply from the town mains. Samples of the town water were taken on four occasions at the works, and have been found by analysis to be satisfactory.

Milk. Twelve samples of ordinary milk, six samples of Pasteurised milk, and two samples of accredited milk submitted for T.B. examination were all proved negative. One sample of T.T. milk was also examined, and found satisfactory. Cowsheds and dairies were periodically inspected. One new cowshed and dairy were erected, and two licences have been granted by the County Council for accredited milk.

Public Sanitary Conveniences. Schemes have been prepared for erection of new conveniences at Hangstone Quarry yard, in the vicinity of Ladye Bay and at the Marine Lake.

Cesspits. A number of these were condemned, and replaced by new constructions by the Council. A scheme for the regular emptying twice or three times per annum of all cesspits has been presented to the Sanitary Committee.

Sandholes and Gullies. These have been periodically cleaned out and disinfected.

Nuisances. The depositing of rubbish on open spaces or unused land should be reported at once at the Council House, in spite of the fact that notices prohibiting such nuisances have been posted in such places.

Fumigation and Disinfection.

Rooms	38	Bedding	38
Clothes	34	Bugs and	
Fly Pests	2	lice	4

Factories and Workshops. These have been periodically inspected.

Slaughter House. The Public Slaughter House has been regularly visited, and carcasses of two bullocks, three pigs and one sheep condemned, in addition to several smaller portions.

Food and Drugs Act, 1939. Premises have been inspected: registration granted and licences issued where the inspected premises fulfilled the necessary conditions.

Petroleum and Carbide Act. Premises of dealers have been inspected, and certificates and renewal of licences issued to those conforming with the act.

Gas Examination. 64 tests have been carried out during the year, embracing the calorific value, water pressure and purity. Reports of these findings have been submitted to the Board of Trade, the Gas Company and the local Council.

War Emergency Action. Under the direction of the County Council, two First Aid Posts, two Decontamination Posts, and two Rescue Parties' Posts have been converted and adapted to these purposes, and twenty war graves in the Cemetery have been allocated.

The Marine Lake. During the bathing season, huts, costumes and towels have been cleansed and disinfected each day.

Inon J. Leach,

Sanitary Inspector.

